

Dear Co-Chair Winfield, Co-Chair Stafstrom, Vice Chair Flexer, Vice Chair Blumenthal, Ranking Member Kissel, Ranking Member Fishbein, and all members of the Judiciary Committee:

I find almost everything about Bill S.B. 16 offensive.

Governor Lamont is clearly out of touch. Roughly 70% of gun offenses in Connecticut today are not prosecuted and the majority of all gun crimes in the state are committed by criminals. And yet he has the audacity to declare that Connecticut has “too many damn guns”?

Now he and democratic lawmakers want once again bring up the old “stop and frisk” tactic that clearly violates The Constitution when just last year he called for limiting police engagement! This part of the bill has been defeated ad nauseum as being at risk for profiling. What the heck is he doing?

I also find it offensive that he wants to further restrict the time-honored practice of building firearms for personal use. This is an expensive and time-consuming process that takes practice and patients to do execute, which is not something that the existing criminals are likely to engage in. This is more likely to be done by hobbyists, competitive shooters and those who want a firearm specialized for their specific needs.

As a disabled individual I find it especially repugnant that Governor Lamont wants to make it illegal to have and use accessories that make it possible for the disabled population to enjoy the sport of target shooting. While pistol braces MAY allow the abled-bodied shooter to fire a pistol from a shouldered position, they are an essential tool for shooters with significant hand or wrist injuries. The first pistol braces were, in fact, designed by USMC and US Army veteran Alex Bosco, to allow a friend and disabled veteran to resume the shooting sports that he loved.

Did you know that 2020 and 2021 set records for new legal permit holders all over the country? Yes, these new law-abiding gun owners are all ages, genders, races, sexual orientation and political affiliations. Indeed, Governor Lamont is out of touch.

I ask you to reject Senate Bill 16.

In addition, I also **OPPOSE** H.B. No. 5416 – AN ACT CONCERNING BULK PURCHASES OF PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS.

I **SUPPORT** Raised S.B. No. 388 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFENSE OF A PERSON OR A PERSON'S DWELLING, PLACE OF WORK OR MOTOR VEHICLE.

I **SUPPORT** Raised H.B. No. 5415 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF ASSAULT WEAPONS AND LARGE CAPACITY MAGAZINES.

I **SUPPORT** Raised H.B. No. 5412 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE DUTY TO RETREAT IN A RELIGIOUS HOUSE OF WORSHIP.

Sincerely,

Frank Hewes

Norwich, CT